

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6642

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T BEIRUT 12790

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: PAN-ARAB FORCES IN LEBANON

REFS: STATE 24436 (NOTAL) CAIRO 10239

1. RE ASSUMPTIONS IN BOTH REFTELS, WE HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT GOL AND OR CHRISTIANS WOULD BE PREPARED ACCEPT ANY KIND OF PAN ARAB FORCE IN LEBANON THAT MIGHT CONCEIVABLY EMERGE OUT OF PAN ARAB DELIBERATIONS. THIS IS AN OLD ISSUE ON WHICH TAQLA AND GOL REPEATEDLY ON RECORD. WHILE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WE MIGHT THEORIZE ON POSSIBILITY GOL AND CHRISTIANS COULD TOLERATE OBSERVER FORCE IN WHICH EGYPTIANS, JORDANIANS AND SAUDIS PLAYED KEY ROLE, THAT KIND OF FORCE WOULD SEEM UNACCEPTABLE TO PALESTINIANS AND SYRIANS.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF IDEA OF FORCE IS WATERED DOWN SUFFICIENTLY, IT BECOME OBSERVER CUM MEDIATORY GROUP. MEDIATION BY ARAB LEAGUE WOULD PROBABLY BE QUITE ACCEPTABLE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THOUGH AGAIN NEITHER CHRISTIAN NOR PALESTINIAN SYRIAN BACKED FORCES WOULD PROBABLY WISH CONCEDE ROLE OF ARBITRATOR IN THE CONFLICT AT LEAST AT PRESENT.

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